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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/576,772

04/21/2006

Miki Shiraogawa

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03/10/2009

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EXAMINER

RUDE, TIMOTHY L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/10/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/576,772

Applicant(s)

SHIRAOGAWA ET AL.

Examiner

TIMOTHY RUDE

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 and 25-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 and 25-27 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/5508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

Species A, an optical device comprising the structure as shown in Figure 16.

Species B, an optical device comprising the structure as shown in Figure 17.

Species C, an optical device comprising the structure as shown in Figure 18.

Species D, an optical device comprising the structure as shown in Figure 19.

Species E, an optical device comprising a retardation layer consisting of a layer of a cholesteric liquid crystal phase having a selective reflection wavelength band in a range other than the visible light range and having a fixed planar alignment (see claim 11).

Species F, an optical device comprising a retardation layer consisting of a layer of a rod-like liquid crystal having a fixed homeotropic alignment state.

Species G, an optical device comprising a retardation layer consisting of a layer of a discotic liquid crystal having a fixed alignment state of a nematic phase or a columnar phase.

Species H, an optical device comprising a retardation layer consisting of a layer of a biaxially-oriented polymer film.

Species I, an optical device comprising a retardation layer consisting of a layer of a negative uniaxial inorganic layered compound having an optical axis aligned and fixed in the normal direction of a plane.

Species J, an optical device comprising a retardation layer consisting of a film produced with at least one polymer consisting of polyamide.

Species K, an optical device comprising a retardation layer consisting of a film produced with at least one polymer consisting of polyimide.

Species L, an optical device comprising a retardation layer consisting of a film produced with at least one polymer consisting of polyester.

Species M, an optical device comprising a retardation layer consisting of a film produced with at least one polymer consisting of poly(etherketone).

Species N, an optical device comprising a retardation layer consisting of a film produced with at least one polymer consisting of poly(amide-imide).

Species O, an optical device comprising a retardation layer consisting of a film produced with at least one polymer consisting of poly(ester-imide).

Species P, an optical device comprising a linearly polarized light reflection polarizer that is a grid type polarizer (see claim 15).

Species Q, an optical device comprising a linearly polarized light reflection polarizer that is a multilayer thin film laminate with two or more layers made of two or

more kinds of materials having a difference between refractive indices that is a vapor-deposited thin film (see claims 16 and 17).

Species R, an optical device comprising a linearly polarized light reflection polarizer that is a multilayer thin film laminate with two or more layers made of two or more kinds of materials having a difference between refractive indices that is NOT a vapor-deposited thin film.

Species S, an optical device comprising a linearly polarized light reflection polarizer that is a multi-birefringence layer thin film laminate with two or more layers made of two or more kinds of materials each having a birefringence wherein the thin multilayer laminate is a stretched resin laminate with two or more layers containing two or more kinds of resins each having a birefringence (see claims 18 and 19).

Species T, an optical device comprising a linearly polarized light reflection polarizer that is a multi-birefringence layer thin film laminate with two or more layers made of two or more kinds of materials each having a birefringence wherein the thin multilayer laminate is NOT a stretched resin laminate with two or more layers containing two or more kinds of resins each having a birefringence.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species from each of A-D, E-O, and P-T (3 species total) to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a

claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed per above.

The following claim(s) are generic: 1.

The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The species contain patentably distinct, mutually exclusive, structural features that cannot have unity of invention as defined above.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one

or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TIMOTHY RUDE whose telephone number is (571)272-2301. The examiner can normally be reached on Increased Flex Time Program.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nelms C. David can be reached on (571) 272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/TIMOTHY RUDE/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2871